

NSC BRIEFING

18 February 1957

BACKGROUND: Orientation of Philippine President Magsaysay

- I. Elections in November; campaign heating up.
 - A. Magsaysay charged as American puppet.
 - B. Magsaysay susceptible pressures appear more nationalistic.
- II. Magsaysay's record strongly anti-Communist.
 - A. Repeatedly backs US Far Eastern policy.
 - B. Pushing anti-Communist campaign.

DOCUMENT NO. 12
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. U
☒ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE 1-16-80 REVIEWER:

25X1

NSC BRIEFING

18 February 1957

ORIENTATION OF PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY

- I. Although voting will not take place until November, hot presidential campaign already underway and likely become hotter.
 - A. Magsaysay opponents seeking discredit him as an American puppet.
 - B. President, believing this charge his chief vulnerability, has felt forced to take increasing cognizance of Philippine nationalist sentiment in dealing with the US, as was case in recent bases negotiations.
 - C. Although he almost certain of re-election, Magsaysay will probably continue to display increasingly nationalistic attitudes throughout the present campaign.
- II. Magsaysay has nevertheless publicly reiterated his intention to campaign on his pro-American record 25X625X6
- III. Magsaysay's record offers no reason to question the sincerity of his pro-American sympathies nor his firm anti-Communist orientation.
 - A. He has repeatedly emphasized the advantages of co-operation with the US and Philippine dependence upon US support and goodwill.
 1. He has strongly backed US policy regarding SEATO, Formosa and South Vietnam, and has repudiated the nationalist slogans of his opponents.

- B. His administration has permitted no let-up of military campaign to suppress Communist rebellion, and is promoting measures to combat internal subversion.
1. Magsaysay is seeking legislation to outlaw the Communist Party and tighten existing laws on treason and rebellion.